

Former rector seeks restructuring of shipping industry

A Marine Engineer, Mr. Olu Akinsoji, has urged the Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Mr. Patrick Akpobolokemi, to restructure the shipping industry.

Akinsoji, former Rector, Maritime Academy of Nigeria (MAN), Oron, told newsmen in Lagos the exercise would enhance the director-general's performance and achievements.

"He is taking some very huge steps that you didn't find before; he is less diplomatic and more active. He should strengthen himself so that his direction can be better defined. If we are doing shipping development let's face shipping development properly and if we are doing maritime safety and regulation concerning shipping, let us face that squarely so that we don't get these two things mixed up.

"Developing shipping must be seen as social economic growth and in the safety and aspect of dignity of ships. Integrity of ships should be seen as a check-point for too much flexibility in shipping development. When you have an accident and you are investigating it, you will investigate it in a manner that you will not put politics into it, you will investigate in on technical basis," he said.

He also advised Akpobolokemi to devise a systematic plan that would enable Nigerians to man ships adding that there is a need to dwell on issues that would ensure sustainable growth in the maritime industry.

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